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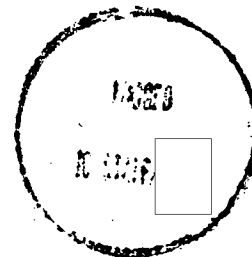
TO:	ACTION	COORD	INFO
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DD/ICS			X
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EA-D/ICS			SAO
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REO			
COMIREX			
SIGINT			
HUMINT			
MASINT			
IPC			
PBO	X		
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SUSPENSE: _____ Date			
REMARKS:			

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ER-3883X/88
8 November 1988

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, Intelligence Community Staff
FROM: Executive Director
SUBJECT: Open Source Information Exchange (OSIX)

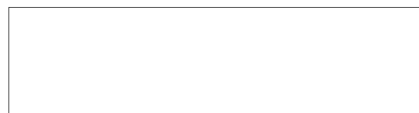


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1. I recently had the opportunity to review with senior managers of the DI and DS&T the OSIX proposal submitted for CIAP and GDIP funding under Intelligence Production Support Initiatives. We also revisited the results of the April 1987 FBIS contract study on architectural concepts for OSIX. I regret to say that our consensus is that the basic OSIX design approach, given today's technology, seems flawed.

2. I do not believe the implementation of a centralized, open-source data base and computer service center to support potentially thousands of users operating from a variety of host corporate systems is feasible within the budgets likely to be available for the foreseeable future. Technological developments and computer security concerns suggest that dissemination of open-source information to key consumers, who in turn address their own unique open-source/classified information integration issues, is a more pragmatic, cost-effective and technologically superior implementation for OSIX. The importance of open-source material to intelligence production is not in question. Rather, the issue is how to make this information available efficiently to the broad spectrum of intelligence analysts. To be used effectively in the analytical process, the relevant open-source information must be input directly into the data processing infrastructure of the user organization.

3. At this juncture, the most prudent course of action, in my view, is to withdraw the current OSIX initiative from consideration, initiate softcopy dissemination to FBIS and other open-source material users, and conduct a fresh evaluation of OSIX implementation strategies. I can assure you of our continuing cooperation should the OSIX initiative be presented in a more practical manner.



James H. Taylor

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